The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting June 12, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present
- Ronald Oakley, Chair Ex Officio
- Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair
- Janey Baldwin, Secretary
- Jack Dennis, Member
- Patsy Nathe, Member
- Albert Rooks, Member
- Paul Mazak, Member

Board Member Absent
- Paul Mazak, Member

Staff Present
- David Moore
- Lou Kavouras
- Bruce Wirth
- Elaine Kuligofski
- Linda Pilcher
- Mark Hammond
- Mike Holtkamp
- Roy Mazur

Recording Secretary
- Annette Zielinski

A list of others who were present and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact discs of the audio and copies of the materials and handouts, as set out in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
   Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Zielinski noted a quorum was present. (CD1/Track 1 - 00:00/00:20)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**
   Chair Oakley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**
   Ms. Kavouras noted there was one deletion to the agenda: Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members.

4. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members**
   This item was deleted from today’s agenda. (CD1/Track 2 - 00:00/02:01)

5. **Consent Items:**
   a. **April 10, 2008, Meeting Minutes**
      Staff recommended approval of the April 10, 2008, meeting minutes, as presented.
   b. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates – Fiscal Year 2009**
      
      | Date                           | Time     | Location                      |
      |--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
      | Thursday, October 16, 2008*   | 9:00 a.m.| Brooksville Headquarters      |
      | Meeting and Workshop          |          |                               |
      | Thursday, December 11, 2008   | 9:00 a.m.| Brooksville Headquarters      |
      | Thursday, February 12, 2009   | 9:00 a.m.| Brooksville Headquarters      |
      | Thursday, April 16, 2009      | 9:00 a.m.| Brooksville Headquarters      |
      | Thursday, June 11, 2009       | 9:00 a.m.| Brooksville Headquarters      |
      | Thursday, August 13, 2009     | 9:00 a.m.| Brooksville Headquarters      |
      | * Special Meeting             |          |                               |

   Staff recommended approval of the FY2009 Basin Board meeting schedule.
Following consideration, Ms. Nathe moved, seconded by Mr. Rooks, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (CD1/Track 3 - 00:00/00:33)

6. Discussion Items:

a. District Environmental Stewardship Initiative Overview

Ms. Elaine M. Kuligofski, Director, Human Resources and Risk Management, addressed the Board to provide an overview of the District's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, which grew from Governor Charlie Crist's July 2007 action plan to reduce greenhouse gases and increase energy efficiency.

With direction from the Executive Sponsor of the Initiative, Gene Schiller, Deputy Executive Director, Management Services Division, five District staff and a Governing Board sponsor (Initiative Team) have examined the District's entire operation to find ways the District may be able to achieve more efficiencies and reduce its carbon footprint. Ms. Kuligofski reported that the District supports the Governor's efforts with regard to environmental stewardship, adding that the plan fits well with the District's focus on sustainable growth and environmental responsibility. She provided information on evaluation, development, and implementation of project activities; Governing Board Policy 110-10, District Commitment to Superior Environmental Stewardship; departmental priorities and project examples; cooperation and exchange of ideas with other water management districts; and reporting requirements.

Ms. Kuligofski asked Board members, as leaders in the community, to inform staff of new products, services, ideas, etc., that might be appropriate for the District's use in becoming more energy efficient and in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4 – 00:00/16:03)

This was heard out of sequence after the Budget item.

b. Cooperative Funding Initiative Project Status Report - Water Partners, Inc. Reclaimed Water Project (H076)

Mr. David Moore, Executive Director, addressed the Board to provide an in-depth report of this project, which involves a public-private partnership that will maximize the beneficial use of reclaimed water flows that are not currently being beneficially used by Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. The project was submitted by Water Partners, Inc. (WPI), a not-for-profit, public-private partnership, whose members include Hillsborough County, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), and Mosaic Fertilizer (Mosaic). Other parties involved include the City of Tampa, the City of Lakeland, Polk County, Tampa Bay Water, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and perhaps Plant City and Temple Terrace. Meetings are being held bi-weekly; four subcommittees (governance, regulatory, recharge, and engineering) have been formed to focus on the major project components. Mr. Moore emphasized that this is a high profile project of which all Board members need to be aware.

Mr. Moore provided background of the project, which is comprised of two major components: (1) a project to provide reclaimed water to industrial users and (2) a project to create opportunities for additional groundwater withdrawals in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) through recharge of reclaimed water in southeastern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. He briefly commented on four reasons the project has potential, estimated project costs, and the timeline. He used graphics to explain the various elements of the project and their relationship to each other.
This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.
(CD 1/Track 7 – 00:00/36:09)

c. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management, said the Basin Board will be requested to vote on a proposed millage rate for fiscal year (FY) 2009. The proposed budget was prepared for the June meeting with the initial assumption that ad valorem revenue would be five percent below FY2008, based on information provided in March 2008 by the State Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research for counties within the Basin. The actual property values will not be certified until July 1, 2008. The proposed millage rate will be provided to the county Property Appraisers for the purpose of preparing Taxpayer Notices of Proposed Property Taxes. At its August meeting, the Basin Board will establish its final millage rate for recommendation to the Governing Board and set funding priorities with dollars available.

To assist the Board in determining the FY2009 proposed millage rate, Ms. Linda R. Pilcher, Assistant Finance Director, used a chart to clarify the various millage rate options and ad valorem revenue that might be generated for each option using the June 1 estimates of taxable property values. Staff will not be able to determine the amount the Basin's millage rate would generate in property tax revenue for FY2009 until actual property values are certified July 1. The staff recommendation is to hold the millage rate at the current FY2008 rate of 0.2308 mill. Based on current estimates, the Basin budget would be $459,216 lower than the budget shown in the meeting notebook. After taxable property values are certified, if either the maximum millage rate or the rolled-back rate is lower than the millage rate adopted during this meeting, staff further recommended the Basin Board authorize the Executive Director to administratively adjust the millage rate to the lower of the two rates to prevent a tax increase or adopting a millage rate that is above the maximum millage rate that can be adopted by a simple majority vote. This would eliminate the need for a special July meeting.

Ms. Baldwin said she was uncomfortable with authorizing the Executive Director to administratively adjust the millage rate to achieve the Basin's recommendation. Mr. Moore responded to her concerns and said he had no interest in adjusting the millage rate that the Basin Board recommends; he said staff was trying to save the Board from potentially meeting again in July. He said the chances of having to meet again in July would be very remote based on the June 1 estimates. He recommended that the Board approve the staff recommendation and plan on meeting again on Thursday, July 24, if necessary to reconsider the proposed millage rate. Following the discussion, the resolution was modified to remove the delegation language.

Mr. Wirth continued the presentation by providing highlights of the budget, noting changes made since the April meeting and considering the June 1 estimates of taxable property values for FY2009. Board members were directed to the Projects section of the meeting notebook for detailed information on all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration. Mr. Wirth said there were some fairly deep cuts made, especially in the large reuse project category. The good news is that all medium ranked and above projects are in the proposed budget. In addition, there were no changes in the ongoing activities from the April budget. The Marion County Blue Run Project, a SWIM project, was discussed. The total project cost is $300,000: the Basin and SWIM will fund $100,000 in FY2009. The Cooperator will request the remaining $200,000 in future fiscal years. Marion County is contributing the land ($320,000) as its funding match.

Regarding the transition of the Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) and its request for $400,000 in funding, staff did not feel a cash contribution was warranted at this time. However, staff feels it is appropriate to support the WRWSA and has offered office space, office furniture and equipment, and administrative support.
Mr. Rooks suggested that biannual updates regarding the cost to the District for providing support to the WRWSA and how the WRWSA is progressing would be beneficial.

After ten years of planning, permitting and executing, the dredging of Lake Panasoffkee is expected to be completed by September 2008. This project has been a tremendous success and residents are very satisfied with the outcome.

Water supply and resource development projects were trimmed and cut as necessary. Mr. Wirth anticipates that some of these cooperators will return in FY2010 to seek funding. The Withlacoochee River Basin Board has $1.7 million in its watershed reserve, which could be used to fund some of the projects that were cut if the Basin Board determined that is necessary.

Chair Oakley heard public comment on this item at this time.

Mr. Al Grubman, representing TOO FAR, complimented the Withlacoochee River Basin Board members for their foresight and their support of the WRWSA.

Ms. Trimpert led a discussion regarding using the proposed funds that were earmarked for the New Development Reclaimed Water Distribution Initiative on other projects. **Ms. Trimpert moved, seconded by Ms. Nathe, to use the funds for other ongoing projects should the Basin's budget be reduced after property values are reported.** Following further discussion, Ms. Trimpert withdrew her motion and Ms. Nathe withdrew her second. Mr. Rooks moved, seconded by Ms. Nathe, to remove the budget line for the New Development Reclaimed Water Distribution Initiative (B276) from the proposed budget and distribute the funds among the existing and ongoing projects. **Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 6 – 00:00/49:01)

At the completion of the budget presentation, Basin Board members were provided with a revised Resolution No. 88. The staff recommendation is to: (1) provide tentative selection of FY2009 Cooperative Funding projects; (2) approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.2308 mill for FY2009; and (3) approve Resolution No. 88, Resolution Approving the Required Proposed Millage Rate for FY2009. If it is determined in July that either the maximum millage rate or the rolled-back rate is lower than the adopted proposed millage rate of 0.2308, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board will meet in July to reconsider the proposed millage rate for FY2009.

Following consideration, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 5 – 00:00/27:37/Track 9 – 00:00/01:38)

d. **Fiscal Year 2010 Strategic Plan**

Mr. Roy Mazur P.E., Director, Planning Department, addressed the Board to give a progress report on the update to the Strategic Plan. He reviewed background of the Plan, goals for the update, and progress being made, emphasizing that the goal is not to re-write the Plan but to refine it. Mr. Mazur's presentation included an explanation of the three-tiered approach of staff involvement, tasks to be accomplished, integration of the Plan throughout the District, and examples of success indicators.

As drafts of the updated Strategic Initiatives become available, they will be provided to Board members who may provide input to Mr. Mazur, Basin Planner Doug Sanders, or Ms. Kavouras. Staff will send e-mail reminders to Board members as deadlines for comments approach. A production draft of the Plan will be generated in August and presented for approval to the October 2008 Governing Board.
This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 8 – 00:00/12:00)

7. **Reports:**
   a. **Report on Governing Board Activities**
      At Chair Oakley's request, staff played pre-recorded highlights of the May 27, 2008, Governing Board meeting, which was narrated by Communications Manager Robyn Felix.

8. **Announcements:**
   Ms. Kavouras directed the Board's attention to the announcements listed on the agenda and emphasized that the Basin Board will meet on July 24, 2008, if necessary, to adjust the millage rate. Ms. Trimpert said she would not be able to attend July 24, 2008.

   Ms. Kavouras announced a location change for the Basin Board Land Resources Committee, July 10, 2008, 9:30 a.m.; the meeting will be held at Nature's Classroom and not at the Green Swamp West Field Office.

   The Basin Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Brooksville Headquarters

9. **Adjournment**
   The day's business being complete, Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m. (CD 1/Track 10 – 00:00/00:55)

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The item listed below were for the Board's information, intended to keep the Board apprised of completed projects, cancelled projects, and projects that have executed contracts and were ready to begin. This item did not require Board action at this time.

1. **Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative (H066)**

Attest: Chairman

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*The District does not discriminate based on disability. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Executive Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), extension 4610; TDD only, 1-800-231-6103 (Florida); fax (352) 754-6874.*